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REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 30, 2003. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification for certain informalities. Amendments to the Specification are respectfully believed to meet all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9-20, 25-37, 39, 41, 45 and 47-50 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102, citing U.S. patent 6,546,419 of Humpleman et al. ("Humpleman et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Humpleman et al. disclose a system for servicing a home network including multiple network devices. The Humpleman et al. system includes a client device connected to the home network. The client device in the Humpleman et al. system displays a user interface, executes a software agent to obtain selection information for the network devices, and displays selection information within the user interface. The Humpleman et al. system enables a user to select a device connected to the network from the user interface being displayed on the client device. The Humpleman et al. system further operates to read capabilities for a home device, including information in a structured format, to read similar capabilities information from another home device connected to the network, to compare the capabilities of the two devices, and to select one of the home devices responsive to the user interface displayed on the client device. The Humpleman et al. system then sends control and command data from the client device to the

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home devices to cause the home devices to communicate with each other to perform the requested service.

Nowhere in Humpleman et al. is there disclosed or suggested any system or method for causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding related service, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, that operates by:

receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, *wherein the document describes a data forwarding related service;*

*parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding related service; and*

*executing the data forwarding related service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document (emphasis added).*

as in the present independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. In contrast, Humpleman et al. addresses the need to control home network devices, and accordingly describes a system for controlling components interconnected in a home network. The home network devices controlled using the system of Humpleman et al. are described as home entertainment components, kitchen appliances, security devices, HVAC components, and the like. Such home network devices as described in Humpleman et al. stand in clear contrast to the data forwarding devices of the present invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. Moreover, the services controlled and provided by the system of Humpleman et al. are described as "source or sink services", such as MPEG sourcing/sinking and display services. In this regard, Humpleman et al. describe providing services such as Video-on-Demand, Enhanced-TV, and Internet commerce, for example. Thus the services provided through the system of Humpleman et al. stand in clear contrast to the data forwarding related services set forth in the present independent claims 1, 17,

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33 and 48. Accordingly, Humpleman et al. includes no hint or suggestion of any step or feature that includes *parsing by a network device a received document in accordance with a corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing a data forwarding related service*, as in claims 1, 17, 33 and 48.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully urge that Humpleman et al. does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48. Accordingly, Humpleman et al. does not anticipate independent claims 1, 17, 33 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. 102. As to claims 2-4, 9-16, 18-20, 25-32, 34-37, 39, 41, 45, 47, and 49-50, they each depend from claims 1, 17, 33 and 48, and are believed to be patentable over Humpleman et al. for at least the same reasons.

In paragraphs 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-8, 21-24, 38, 40, 42-44, 46 for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103, again citing Humpleman et al., in combinations with U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032709 of Gessner ("Gessner"), Applicants' reference to "Oplet Runtime Environment" in the present disclosure ("ORE reference"), "Dynamic Classification in Silicon-based Forwarding Engine Environments" ("Jaeger"), and United States patent number 6,529,515 of Raz et al. ("Raz et al."). Like Humpleman et al., the cited combinations of references fail to disclose or suggest any system or method for causing a network device to locally perform a data forwarding related service, wherein the network device comprises a data forwarding device, that operates by:

receiving at the network device a document written in accordance with a markup language and a corresponding document definition, *wherein the document describes a data forwarding related service;*

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*parsing by the network device the received document in accordance with the corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing the data forwarding related service; and executing the data forwarding related service on the network device in accordance with the parsed document (emphasis added).*

as in the present independent claims 1, 17 and 33. In particular, none of the cited combinations of references include any hint or suggestion of any step or feature that includes *parsing by a network device a received document in accordance with a corresponding document definition, wherein the parsing determines at least one parameter describing a data forwarding related service*, as in claims 1, 17 and 33. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully urge that the cited combinations of Humbleman et al. with Gessner, the ORE reference, Jaeger, and Raz et al. do not disclose or suggest all the features of the present invention as set forth in the independent claims 1, 17 and 33. Accordingly, these cited combinations with Humbleman et al. do not form the basis of a *prima facie* case of obviousness with regard to independent claims 1, 17 and 33. As claims 5-8, 21-24, 38, 40, 42-44, and 46 each depend from claims 1, 17 and 33, they are respectfully believed to be patentable over the cited combinations with Humbleman et al. for at least the same reasons. Reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone David A. Dagg, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-6664 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

  
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